

# ANDREW YOUNG

January 11, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I am writing to convey my hopes and concerns related to current and upcoming Commission proceedings regarding the deployment of and access to broadband networks. As Mayor of Atlanta and Co-Chair of the Atlanta Olympics Games and through my work in the private sector, I have a wealth of experience in promoting public-private collaboration to promote public aims.

We have reached a period in our history where internet access is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. Families and communities who are unable to access the internet are at a tremendous disadvantage in availing themselves of educational resources, information on essential government functions and job opportunities. As we seek to revive our economy, promoting and expanding broadband access must be our priority to promote new businesses and new jobs. New small businesses cannot grow, especially in our poorest communities, absent broadband access.

Jobs must be our priority in this time of crisis. Every decision must be evaluated in terms of the impact on creating new jobs and undermining existing jobs. In an earlier era of technological innovation, the railroads were burdened with regulations, even as governments carried the total costs of building roads and airports. Due to that shortsightedness, passenger rail service has all but disappeared. We must be cautious of hobbling mature industries through regulation, just as new competitors enter their space.

I urge you to proceed with caution in fashioning new rules and regulations during the worst economic environment in my adult life. Consider whether any action promotes fairness, expands access and increases economic opportunity for communities hardest hit by the current recession.

I appreciate your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Ambassador Andrew Young